

# Seventh Day Baptist World

August 2017

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## More from Brazil 2017 Sessions A Jump Start for SDBWF's Next 5 Years

In our May issue we reported on activities of the sixty delegates and observers from ten member conferences who attended the 8th Sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil, January 22-28, 2017. The June 2017 issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* included more pictures and reports from individual delegates, observers, and officers.

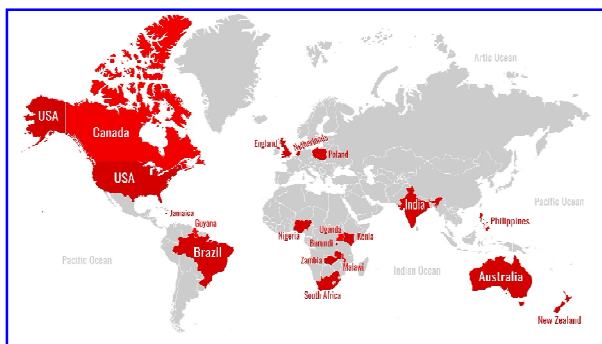
Now we summarize the individual country reports presented at the sessions, share a few news updates, and present the new officers on duty until the next session which will be held in North America in 2022.

## In this issue

General Secretary's message	2
President's message	2
News, Calendar, Finances	3
Meet the new President	4
Newest Member: Rwanda	5
From Member Conference Reports	6-9
In Memoriam: James Siwani	10
Member Groups	10
New Executive Committee	10



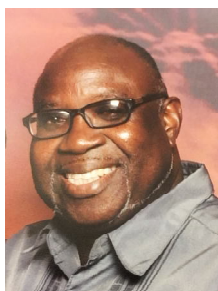
While waiting for the bus to take them sight-seeing in Curitiba, 2017 WF Sessions participants responded to a call by Pastor David Taylor for a perfect photo-op, most of them in their "The Kingdom of God is like...." t-shirts.



*Seventh Day Baptist WORLD* is published periodically to help accomplish the purposes of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation: to provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world, to promote projects of mutual interest which will benefit from international cooperation, and to stimulate fellowship among Seventh Day Baptist Christians.

**Editor:** Janet Thorngate, [janvanthorn@aol.com](mailto:janvanthorn@aol.com)

## General Secretary's Message: **Harmony**



*Andrew Samuels*

**As I encourage and challenge our member conferences to be healthy**, I am using the word "health" to focus on 6 critical areas. If these areas are properly attended to, I believe we can accomplish our objective of experiencing healthy conferences, led by healthy leaders. Those six areas are **Harmony, Education, Accountability, Leadership, Theology, and Healing**.

Some of our conferences are experiencing unhealthy conflict and tension. Of course, these contentions are as a result of the fall of humanity, and they exist simply because of the presence of sin. So, until the Lord returns, conflict will be with us, and a healthy perspective is not the notion of trying to eliminate conflict, but rather to minimize it and manage it well.

**So, first I believe it is important to accept the presence of conflict**, and recognize it as both a normal factor of human relations, as well as an effective strategy of the Devil. Satan wants to divide and conquer. We must be determined to prevent him from succeeding in his mission. Do not be a pawn in his game. Recognize when he may be using you to sow discord, or be divisive. The Apostle Paul admonishes us in Romans 12:18 to live peaceably with all men, as much as it lies in our power to do that. So, yielding and submitting our will to the Lord, goes a long way in helping us to stay at peace with others.

*Continued, page 4*

## President's Message: **Be Joyful, With a Grateful Prayer and a Thankful Heart**



*Jonas Sommer*

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

These words from the Apostle Paul describe in every sense what the delegates and observers experienced during the World Federation Sessions, held in Curitiba, Brazil, last January.

**First, he commands us to rejoice always.** Many have been the reasons we have to be joyful. God is working for us! During that week we got together in Curitiba, we heard the reports of what God has been doing among the Seventh Day Baptist people around the world. We could feel the joy of the lives that are being reached by the message of the Gospel, though the work of the Holy Spirit, and as a result of prayers, personal testimony, and the preaching of the gospel by members and leaders of our churches.

**Paul's second recommendation is that we always remain in prayer.** During the week, we had moments of gratitude prayers and supplication for our churches, their respective pastors, the scheduled activities, and other concerns presented at each meeting. Our challenge is to continually pray for our family spread around the world.

*Continued, page 4*

## World Federation CALENDAR: 2017-2018

- July 9-15, 2017 -- **Jamaica Annual Conference**, Maiden Hall Conference Center, St. Mary, Jamaica
- July 23-29 -- **USA & Canada Annual Conference** at Azusa Pacific University in California, USA
- August 5 -- A Sabbath of thanks to God for SDB Rwanda achievement at Maranatha SDB/Musanze Town, Rwanda
- August 23-27 -- Uganda Youth Conference in Mbale Eastern Uganda
- August 26-27 -- **Special British Conference** at Mill Yard, London, General Secretary (Samuels attending)
- September 15-25 -- General Secretary Samuels' Africa Trip (Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda)
- September 17-23 -- Samuels in Malawi September 15-20, includes pastoral training (17th-19th, a project primarily sponsored by the SDB Missionary Society)
- September 20-23 -- **Central Africa Conference** annual general meeting, Makapwa, Thyolo, Malawi
- September 20-22 -- Samuels in Uganda to welcome them into the World Federation (accepted as members in 2016)
- September 23-25-- **Rwanda General Conference** at SDB Maranatha/Musanze Town celebrating membership in WF (Samuels there September 22-25 to welcome them into the World Federation (accepted in Brazil in January 2017)
- October 8-14 -- **Uganda General Conference** sessions in Kyegegwa
- December 13-16 -- Baptist Women of Destiny in Mukono, Uganda
- January 7-13, 2018 -- **World Federation Week of Prayer** (in all member Conferences)
- January 13, 2018 -- **World Federation Sabbath** (in many member Conferences)

### Thank you to all who contribute to the SDB World Federation's work!

#### Quick summary from outgoing treasurer, Gavin Fox:

Total assets post-2017 Sessions: US\$ 65,521.00.  
 Sessions cost: US\$28,991.00 including travel. Best post-Sessions condition ever!  
 Past 5 years' income: US\$125,000.00, Past 5 years expenses: US\$83,000.00.  
 2017 Delegates approved a \$110,000 budget for the next 5-year period with anticipated expenses through the 2022 Sessions of \$97,000--and plans for broader member-conference support.



*WF Treasurer  
Gavin Fox*

### Manani, Chroniger Receive Honor

As one of the three living members of the "CoWoCo 9" who signed the proposal in 1964 to create the SDB World Federation, Pastor Otrain Manani of Malawi received recognition at his home church in Blantyre after Pastor Fred Maduka arrived home to present the memento. Pastor Naval Harley of Jamaica and Pastor Jacob Tyrrel of Guyana had received the same honor at the sessions in Brazil.



Similarly, at the USA & Canada pastors' conference in April, General Secretary Samuels named Pastor Kenneth Chroniger an Honorary WF Ambassador in appreciation of his work to promote financial and prayer support of the Federation.



### WF Sessions Inspire Unexpected Projects

#### Brazilians going to Malawi to teach music!

The SDB Missionary Society is soliciting funds, musical instruments, and other teachers for a music training ministry in Malawi, Africa. Apparently it all started when Luiz Miranda, music leader at the WF sessions in January (who was about to retire from his secular job and do his music ministry full time) experienced a spiritual bond with the delegates from Malawi. He spontaneously incorporated them and anyone else who appeared up front into leading the wide variety of music the participants shared in praise to God. Luiz and his daughter Cristiane, both of whom play many musical instruments, will go to Malawi to teach 30 youths music theory and skills. They will form teams to lead worship and teach others. For more information: [www.sdbmissions.org](http://www.sdbmissions.org) (under Projects and News).

## Harmony, continued from page 2

**Then, we are called to recognize that not all battles** are worth fighting. All matters do not carry equal significance. Our spiritual maturity and discernment must be fully in gear so that we are able to recognize when to pursue a matter, and when to leave it alone.

If by conviction and by Scriptural mandate, and by a humble sense of righteousness, we must confront a matter, our commitment must be to do it lovingly and graciously – Ephesians 4:15.

**The harmony we seek as the people of God, must not be confused with uniformity. There is a difference.**

Harmony is when we are of one mind, spirit, purpose, mission, and goal. Uniformity refers to having the same form, style, or degree. So harmony is the “what” and uniformity is the “how.” Harmony is the essence and uniformity is the manner. Our quest for harmony does not ignore the richness of our creative diversity. In fact, in an almost paradoxical way, we attain Christian harmony by recognizing, encouraging, and celebrating our immense diversity. When there is true harmony, we are able to laud and accept our differences, but uniformity

implies that everyone is alike, so there is no room for differences. Just as uniformity does not equate to harmony, distinction does not equate to division. The apostle Paul told a diverse group of believers in Galatia that they were all one in Christ Jesus. – “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ like a garment. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:27-28)

**In the churches of Galatia, there were** Gentiles and Jews, males and females, and people from different socio-economic backgrounds. The Christian faith did not eliminate those distinctions, but Christ’s righteousness freely given, transcended those distinctions. We don’t and can’t stand before God because of our ethnicity, status, or gender. We stand before Him because He has clothed us in His righteousness, and we stand before Him with others who are different from us who have also been clothed in that same righteousness.

**That is the blessedness of sharing and working** in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. May harmony reign in your conference, and among us all.

*Pastor Andrew*



*President Sommer, General Secretary Samuels, and outgoing President, now General Secretary Emeritus Thorngate at the 2017 Sessions in Brazil*

## Meet New WF President Sommer

**Pastor Jonas Sommer** was born into an evangelical home in 1975 in the small town of Dois Vizinhos/Parana state, Brazil. His conversion took place in January 1994 during a Youth Meeting in Porto União/Santa Catarina state and he was baptized the following year. In 1996 he felt called to the ministry. He took a preparatory course for church workers offered by the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference and in 1998 accepted an invitation to be a worker in the Joinville SDB church. After two years, he studied theology at the Baptist Theology College in Paraná, completing his Bachelor’s Degree in 2003. He was ordained to the pastoral ministry in 2005, becoming the Senior Pastor of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church in Joinville the same year.

**He has since completed a Master of Theology** Degree at Lutheran University and served as pastor in Porto União and Bocaiuva do Sul churches. Since 2009 he has served as director of the Brazilian TIME Program for training church leaders. Currently, he also teaches English classes at a private college and a Federal high school. He is married to Clarice Kollenberg Sommer, whom he met at the Theology College, and they have two children: Marcos and Paula. As a Brazilian, Pastor Jonas loves soccer and whenever

## Joyful, continued from page 2

**During the Sessions we were reminded what God has done** in the last fifty years of the SDB World Federation. Therefore we are grateful for the Spirit who prays for us with groans too deep for words. We give thanks for the God who sticks closer than a brother. He listens when we need to vent. He understands when words are absent. He is the one who carries us and gives strength when we have none of our own.

**Joyfully, prayerfully and gratefully,** we will face the challenges our Lord and Savior Jesus has for the SDB World Federation in the next five years. We are sure He will be with us and we will celebrate each blessing and victory that the Lord will give us.

*Pastor Jonas*

he has the chance he plays with the young people of his church. He is passionate about preaching and the study of languages.

**Pastor Jonas became involved with the SDB World Federation** in 2003, when he helped with the organization and hosting of the 2003 Sessions in Brazil, translating the correspondence from Portuguese to English and English to Portuguese as needed, and since then has been greatly blessed by the friendships he made. He was a delegate from Brazil at the Sessions in 2008, where he was elected Vice President for South America, and in 2017, when he was elected President. You can email him at this address: [jonas@cbsdb.com.br](mailto:jonas@cbsdb.com.br)

# News from Rwanda, SDBWF's Newest Member Conference

by President Jean de Dieu Karimutumye

- \* For the first time since our conference began in 1997, Seventh Day Baptists in Rwanda have hymn books appropriate to the SDB Gospel. They confirm our identity as Seventh Day Baptists and will facilitate our spreading the Good News easily and quickly without confusion.
- \* One year after being granted legal recognition as a legitimate church, our status was published in the Official Journal, an achievement that we thank our God for very much because not every church can receive this benefit.
- \* Evangelization:
  - \* More than 35 new Christians have been baptized in the past 6 months, and there are others who need it;
  - \* New families: 3 marriages already carried out and 2 others planned during this month;
  - \* Through different evangelization gatherings we won three new groups and a small one in Kigali;
  - \* Visits: SDB Morogoro/Tanzania visited us (it was a study visit); and we also made an encouraging visit to North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in April 2017.

Now we have 35 groups of which 22 have their own buildings. The churches are in three out of four provinces (in 9 districts out of 30 districts) of Rwanda. There are about 2500 members but many challenges. These include the need for a headquarters building in town and transportation for leaders to visit churches.



President Karimutumye by Rwanda flag in Brazil & distributing new hymnbooks, (hymnbooks in use, right). Group in Democratic Republic of Congo (below) & certificate of Conference legal recognition.



One of 35 recent Rwanda baptisms and one of several evangelization gatherings resulting in four new groups to add to the 31 reported earlier with nearly 2500 members.



## History of Rwanda SDBs

*Editor's Note: The following history summary is from the Rwanda Conference's application for membership in the SDB World Federation. The official conference name is Itoraro Ry'abatista Bumunsi wa 7 mu Rwanda. (Languages spoken in Rwanda are French, Kinyarwanda (mother tongue), English, and Kiswahili.)*

The Church was founded in September 1997 in Musanze City, Rwanda, by eight persons who had left the Adventist Church. The Church created was named Maranatha.

At the beginning (1997), it was a missionary movement established with these objectives:

- \* Spreading the Gospel in Rwanda country and around the world;
- \* Charitable actions to peoples who are suffering (Example: Prisoners, sick, displaced by war, the poor, etc.)

Towards the end of 1997 a church meeting was held to find a name for this movement to differentiate it from other groups. Through an Internet research, Bible verses (especially Mt

*Continued, page 6*

## Notes from Member Conference Reports to the Brazil Sessions

### Australia



*Gabriel Alegre  
President*

Although the Australian Association of SDBs was unable to have a delegate at the Brazil Sessions, they sent an encouraging report: a growing trend of believers wanting to learn more about the Sabbath and Seventh Day Baptists, 22 baptisms in the last five years, growth in all five churches and four fellowships with two new fellowships starting in Port Macquaire and Perth. Much is stimulated by the traveling ministry of Pastor Reg and Denise Zink, SDB Highways and Byways. Five have completed the first two modules of their TIME program but the felt need is for more of the new leaders to have a better understanding of SDB history and polity. Since the sessions, Pastor Reginald Zink has been named WF Vice President for Australasia; he is Vice President of the Australian Association and pastor of the Gold Coast SDB Church in Queensland (*see photo, p. 10*).

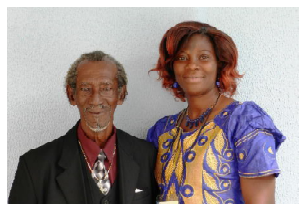
### Brazil



*Brazil Delegation: De Vargas, Teles, Grossklaus, Magalhaes, Sommer*

After the 2008 WF Sessions, the Brazil Conference initiated its TIME program to train church leaders, and by the time of their Centennial in 2013 had 100 students (69 have graduated, 26 of them now serving as pastors). Currently 78 are enrolled in six regional classes with four graduations planned for 2017. They list 65 churches with a membership of 4,953; 6 churches planted since 2008 with 5 more in process. They have helped nurture the new SDB Convention in Chile (now 5 churches with 93 members), planning for its own TIME program. They maintain cooperation with SDBs in Mozambique, Africa, who report 80 churches with 4,790 members. The Brazilians, who share the Portuguese language with them, have already raised some funds for a TIME program there.

### Guyana



*Guyana Delegates:  
Tyrrell, Henry*

Now reporting 14 churches and 4 new groups with a membership of 469, the Guyana Conference development thrust is their vision for Camp Glory as a youth camp and counseling center. The churches are spread over two of the country's three counties (Essequibo and Demerara) with need for the Conference to have a means of transportation for land and one for water so that leaders can better nurture the churches. Leaders meet four times a year for quarterly board meetings and the annual General Conference in July-August. They have had some assistance with leadership training from Pastors Paul Andries of the USA and Carlton Ferguson of Jamaica. WF Vice President Claudia Ferguson has visited and helped develop an exchange between the youth camps in Guyana and Jamaica, and they hope to partner to plant churches in other Caribbean countries. Several churches have community outreach ministries: feeding programs or training in practical skills. In 2013 the Conference celebrated its Centennial including special evangelistic programs.

## Rwanda Conference History, *continued from page 5*

28: 19-20, Lev 20: 8), ideas of different members, etc., Seventh Day Baptist Church was chosen among the different proposed names. They had found Seventh Day Baptists on the Internet and were in accord with the descriptions of their faith.

In 1998, the first Coordination Committee elected Elie Nduwayesu the Legal Representative of the Church, in 2005 Gabriel Sendegeya, and in 2013, Jean de Dieu Karimutumye. In 2000, Kirk Looper visited the SDB Rwanda Conference on behalf of the SDB Missionary Society and in 2003 made his second trip with Brother Aaron. In October 2015, Clinton R. Brown, the Executive Director of SDB Missionary Society, and Pastor Johnmark Camenga visited SDBs in Rwanda.

The congregations were established one after another and until now we have 31 groups of which 22 have their own buildings. The churches are in 3 out of 4 provinces (in 9 districts out of 30 districts) of Rwanda. They have about 2500 members.

The conference continues its mission to evangelize the gospel across the country and outside the country. January 2014 marked the first dissemination of the gospel through the Musanze Community Radio. In the context of making joint effort with our brothers, we are united with SDB East African community newly created (February 2014) and this community will help us to achieve our goal.

## Notes from Member Conference Reports to the Brazil Sessions



*Paul Chukka  
President*

**India** It was disappointing that the Brazil visa for President Paul Chukka of the India Conference in Andhra Pradesh was denied so that he was unable to attend the sessions. “Even though I am physically absent, my heart still remains in the SDB World Conference,” he wrote in his report. In introducing himself he noted that he had had Bible training earlier, began working for God in 1991, and became a Seventh Day Baptist in 2006. When Missionary Society Director Kirk Looper visited, they had 5 churches but by the time Director Clinton Brown visited recently, they had 9 with “vision to start many new SDB churches in many places.... Our churches are all poor churches,” he notes, “Some need microphones and Bibles” but the greatest need is for transportation for leaders to travel to visit and nurture the work. Currently the SDB Missionary Society has a “Motor-bike for Ministry” project for India. See [www.sdbmissions.org](http://www.sdbmissions.org) under Projects & News.



*Jamaica  
Delegates:  
Levy &  
Levy, Ferguson,  
Dunn-Evans, Harley*

**Jamaica** Some activities of the Jamaica Conference make use of their conference center and campsite at Maiden Hall, St. Catherine (still under development). In addition to the annual Conference Sessions, they have conventions of regional church groups, youth camps, and a variety of retreats for fellowship and training (pastors & wives, young adults, men, women, couples, etc.). The Jamaica Bible Institute, their leadership training arm, held its most recent graduation in July 2016. Through their Caribbean Church Planting Project they seek to establish SDB church groups on other islands where Jamaicans have moved to work, allowing them to remain SDBs and providing them with opportunities for evangelism. The new Cayman Islands SDB group has a prison ministry and has positioned itself to reach Cayman citizens. Jamaica reports 34 churches and 7 groups with 21 pastors and approximately 4,000 members. In addition to baptisms in the churches, eleven were baptized at the 2016 Conference sessions.



*Benard Mose  
General Secretary*

**Kenya** Bishop Benard Mose also regretted that he was unable to attend the Brazil Sessions as planned. “I hope you can feel the presence of the Kenya Conference with you,” he noted in his report. “The Kenya Conference has grown and now it can boast of 23 SDB churches. Our growth has not been as fast as it was expected, but great strides we have made. My country is Christian dominated and thus we thank God that we the Seventh Day Baptists are counted among the shepherds who are taking care of God’s flock and leading them to the right direction.” He expressed concern for the growth of the church on the African continent: “We need to pray for ways and means that will bring our churches together for the great good of our people.... It is my prayer that with the guidance and strength of our almighty Father in heaven, doors will open and we get a chance to host the Federation in Africa. I believe and trust that it is the prayer of my African brethren too.”



*Malawi Delegates  
Phiri & Maduka*

**Malawi** The Central Africa Conference (CAC) includes 158 churches in Malawi and parts of Mozambique with membership of over 15,000 manned by only 60 pastors. The Conference meets once every year for fellowship, to monitor progress through reports, and to review operations, beliefs, and policies, and elect new conference leadership. Recent years have witnessed church growth and expansion into new places despite resource impediments and theological tussles. The loss of General Secretary, Brother Nedd C. Lozani and of long-time missionaries and honorary members Pastor David and Bettie Pearson are strongly felt along with the national disaster of severe flooding and drought since 2014.

*continued next page 8*

## Notes from Member Conference Reports to the Brazil Sessions

**Malawi**  
*continued from  
previous page, 7*

**Current thrusts include self-help church construction** projects, pastoral training through TIME and Crush training programs (The Bible college has not been functional for the past six years due to financial and human resource problems), and expansion of youth and children's ministries to include vocational skills training. The three vibrant health centers continue in remote areas where the government has no public health facilities, and the Conference has four primary and two secondary schools run in collaboration with the Malawi government. CAC operations are coordinated by a secretariat manned by the General Secretary, Ministerial Services Director, and Hospital Administrator. Current plans include visits to brothers and sisters in Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya, and South Africa and fund-raising for needed Conference vehicle and motorbikes for pastors who work as supervisors of other pastors.

**Netherlands**

**Pastor Frits Nieuwstraten sent a report** to the Brazil sessions saying that the situation in the Netherlands is difficult: As in most of the rest of Europe, secularization is still on the march. He noted, however, that many groups arise that celebrate the Sabbath, many led by a charismatic leader, most classifying themselves as Messianic Jews who celebrate the Old Testament feasts and copy other Jewish customs. Two SDB congregations in the north "have made this switch" but those in Haarlem, led by Pastor Nieuwstraten assisted by his son Jaap, and in Amsterdam led by Rev. Roel Dijk do not follow those customs and remain relatively small. "In the past few years the older members of our congregations have passed away. New forms of service and worship attract new visitors."

**Nigeria**



*Godfrey Achor  
President*

**The Nigeria Conference had not been able to have a representative** at WF sessions since Lawrence Uchegbuonu represented them in New Zealand 1992. Following a difficult transition after his death in 2005 (at age 85), Godfrey Achor was elected president in 2008. His report to the Brazil sessions notes, "I inherited liabilities, no assets, but God through His mercies has been helpful to us and we have been moving forward and successfully." He also acknowledged great challenges: "We regret our attitudes toward church activities has not been encouraging since the great flood in 2012 dislocated many things. Our activities became slow for lack of working materials: Holy Bibles, hymnbooks, tracts, literature, Biblical books, etc." Other barriers include the poor management of political leaders and general civil unrest from insurgent activities in this most populated African nation. Pastor Achor had earlier reported 45 churches with 2,500 members overseen by four pastors, mostly in the southern and south-eastern states.

**Philippines**



*Zosimo Marcelo  
President*

**Major accomplishments listed by Philippines Conference secretary** Pastora Mary Jane Pacong in the report brought by President Marcelo included a series of five Pastors' Conferences and Fellowships, each held in a church in a different region during 2016. They included seminars and leaders' meetings, some with guest speakers, some including baptisms or other special event. A similar series is ongoing in 2017. Six new churches are listed as a Church Planting Mission with three more "coming to open." A proposed new TIME program, for which they would need financial assistance, is modeled on the previous successful one. According to the report, all working leaders of the conference (United Seventh Day Baptist Mission.....) are graduates of the earlier TIME program. The three-year program (36 3-day classes over 36 months) is designed to fully prepare pastoral leaders to handle a church, preach and share the Good News for Kingdom expansion.



## Notes from Member Conference Reports to the Brazil Sessions

### Poland



*Andrzej Bujok  
Pastor*

**Delegate from the the Sabbath Day Christian Church of Poland** was Pastor Andrzej Bujok who lives in Ireland and pastors a church of Polish people who emigrated there for work. The Polish Conference has about 400 members in 13 churches and 7 small groups and relates closely with churches in Germany, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Danmark, and Serbia. There are annual congresses and an annual conference for pastors and leaders. Educational programs include ministerial training and summer camps for children and youth. The Conference has a website, weekly on-line transmissions of sermons, and publications including Bible lessons, *Spirit of the Time* magazine, books, and booklets.

### Uganda



*Daniel Nsubuga  
General Secretary*

**One year after they joined the Federation, the Uganda Conference** reported double the number of churches: 20 churches and over 15 cell groups across the nation. “Four developed from the cell groups (home churches) and five from refugee camps (in the north from exiles of Sudan and Central African Republic, and in the west. Two developed out of members who left Rwanda and settled in Kamwenge, Uganda. We work with Rwanda Conference to nurture them since they are Rwanda language speaking people. We have eight ordained ministers and three non-ordained. Every Sabbath we attend to over 1,500 children because some churches are in refugee camps...” The Maranatha Child Care Program takes care of orphans, if possible in homes of close relatives, with some help from the Conference (sometimes a cow for milk and, in the future, perhaps chickens like the project in Zambia). The greatest challenges are wars, refugees, and the past year’s severe drought. Churches work to build a building with shared resources to roof one each year. Another need is bicycles for pastors.

### USA & Canada



*USA & Canada*

*Delegation: Petersen, Samuels, Umaña, Pethtel, & Fox plus President Thorngate*

**A new “Vision Map,” a template to guide and measure** current and future endeavors, was developed by the new and smaller General Council (7 people rather than 14), which meets more often. Since the 2008 WF sessions major organizational and personnel changes seem to be showing progress. The executives of the councils are younger people with new vision and energy: Jeremiah Owen (Communications), Nick Kersten (Education & History), John Pethtel (Church Development & Pastoral Services), Jennifer Wangsness (Women’s Ministries), and Clinton Brown (Missionary Society). Executive Director Robert Appel reported 81 member churches, up from 72 in his last report. A major thrust is to plant new churches in new areas and to assist current churches to become healthier.

### Zambia



*Quistin Chalwe  
General Secretary*

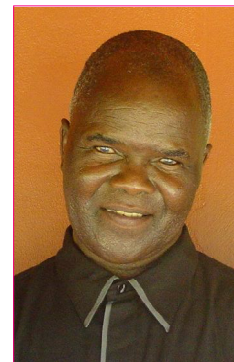
**Although the Zambia Conference was received into the Federation in 2008,** this was the first time they had a delegate attending WF Sessions. General Secretary Chalwe traced the history of the work there from 1966 and 1986 when two Baptist pastors (Edwin Mukumbo and Isaiah Mweetwa) met American SDBs at Baptist World Alliance and Billy Graham conferences in Kenya and the Netherlands. The Conference dates its beginning as 1991 with encouragement from USA and Malawi SDBs. Internal leadership struggles weakened the work between 1991 and 2003 after which Pastor Chalwe became the leader. Rodney Henry of the USA conducted leadership training in 2005, and in 2015-16 the SDB Missionary Society sponsored six ministry training seminars at the church in Kitwe with different teachers traveling from Jamaica, New Zealand and the USA. There were 15 graduates. They report 21 churches in two associations across the country. Since 2013 the Conference meets once in two years rather than annually in order to direct resources to such needs as roofing sheets for rural churches and bicycles for pastors.



*New Zealand, 1992*

### Nyaniso James Siwani (1943-2017)

James Siwani grew up as a Seventh Day Baptist in South Africa during the difficult years of apartheid, struggling against harsh racial barriers to obtain an education through many types of jobs from hard physical labor to quality control supervisor for the Ford Motor Company and high school English teacher. In 1962 he “was appointed full accredited preacher in the church” and in 1979 completed the three-year theological course at the Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa at Pietermaritzburg. In the 1980s he helped lead his Conference into World Federation membership and represented them at the sessions in the USA in 1986, New Zealand in 1992, Jamaica in 1997, and Brazil in 2003. From 1997 to 2008 he served as WF Vice President for Africa, publishing a periodic newsletter, the *Voice of Africa*, working to help create the SDB African General Conference, which held meetings in Malawi,



*Brazil 2003*

Zimbabwe, and South Africa in 1992, 1994, 1996, and 2001. In 1995 the South Africa Conference and the SDB Historical Society published his book, *The Unknown Made Known: The History of Sabbathkeepers in South Africa*, to answer the questions he and others had long-sought regarding the origins of Seventh Day Baptists (1906) and other Sabbathkeeping groups in his country. His wife Mirriam, who accompanied him to Brazil in 2003, and one of three children preceded him in death.

## World Federation Member Groups

Australia Association of SDBs

Karl Rudd, Secretary

Brazil SDB Conference

Joao Teles, President

British Conference of SDBs

Owen Lynch, Executive Secretary

Burundi SDB Conference

Gilbert Nduwayo, General Secretary

Guyana SDB Conference

Sherlock Caesar, President

India SDB Conference

Paul Chukka, President

Jamaica SDB Conference

Devon Levy, President

Kenya SDB Conference

Benard Mose, Bishop

Central Africa Bishence (Malawi)

Charles Stima, Acting Gen. Secretary

Netherlands Conf. of SDB Churches

Frits Nieuwstraten, Pastor

New Zealand SDB Churches

Ian Ingoe, Contact Person

Nigeria Conference of SDBs

Godfrey Achor, President

Philippines United SDB Churches

Zosimo Marcelo, President

Poland, Sabbath Day Christian Ch.

Robert Cyganik, Contact Person

Rwanda SDB Conference

Jean Karimutumye, President

South Africa SDB Conference

Nkoli Schaap, General Secretary

Uganda SDB Conference

Daniel Nsubuga, Gen. Secretary

USA & Canada SDB Conference

Robert Appel, Executive Director

Zambia SDB Conference

Quistin Chalwe, Gen. Secretary

*Addresses may be requested from the WF General Secretary.*



### The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

**a volunteer organization funded entirely by contributions from individuals and member groups. Contributions are welcome for country projects or for operating costs.**

*Contributions may be mailed to*

*SDBWF Treasurer*

*PO Box 7755*

*Silver Spring MD 20907USA*

*or by Pay Pal on our Web site:*

*<http://www.sdbwf.org>*



### SDB World Federation Executive Committee



New officers (from left): Karen Umaña, Recording Secretary; Douglas Machado, Vice President South America; Andrew Samuels, General Secretary; Garfield Miller, Treasurer; Claudia Ferguson, Vice President Caribbean; Canaan Phiri, Vice President Africa; John Pethtel, Vice President North America; Jonas Sommer, President; Michael Spearl, Assistant General Secretary. At right: Reginald Zink, Vice President Australasia; Al Paypa, Vice President Asia.